Mr. K. R. Viswambharan : What is the highest fine leviable by the Officers ?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu : Has Government any objection, even if there is no rule in the Excise Manual, to make provision to give private individuals also rewards for detection work ?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar : We have to see whether it is necessary to institute such a provision.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon: Is there analogous provision in the case of Forest Department and the Police Department ?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon: In the Forest Department also, rewards are paid for detection of crimes. Rewards are paid to deserving subordinates.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon: And in the case of Police Department ?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon: In the Police Department also, there is a like provision.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon: What is the practice in British India ?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon: The same.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Has any maximum been fixed ?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar: One-third of the collection.

Mr. Puthoor Achyuta Menon: Is it not a matter of fact that in Police and Forest Departments, private individuals are paid for detection work ?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon: Yes.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty: Is it not only in exceptional cases that rewards are paid in Police Department ?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon: When they deserve, we pay.

TRAVANCORE EXCISE RESERVE PEONS—COMPLAINTS AGAINST

52. Mr. A. V. Moothedan : Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the news published by the correspondent from Koratty to the 'Malabar Mail' dated 9th Mithunam 1113 regarding the frequent assaults committed by the Travancore Excise Reserve Peons on innocent persons residing at the border land in Cochin ?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar : Yes. There were complaints from other people also in the same matter. On

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enquiry the Government have found that the complaint is highly exaggerated.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Was any representation made to the Travancore Government regarding this assault?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar: No. Their complaints are highly exaggerated.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Was there any basis for complaint?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar: I don't think there was any. In this case, Government examined the matter and found they are rather exaggerated.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Then, are the complaints absolutely false? I want a definite answer as to whether the complaints are absolutely false and whether they are absolutely right.

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar: Some Excise Officers of Travancore, probably to stop smuggling in Travancore might have asked them thinking these people to be suspected smugglers.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: So, am I to take it that the Government have no correct information?

Mr. K. M. Subramania Ayyar: Myself, the Diwan Peishkar and the Police Commissioner enquired into the matter and found that these complaints are baseless.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon: I made a personal enquiry and found that we have leased half of the river for fishing purpose. In the cover of night these fishermen used to go to the other shores for fishing and Travancore Excise Officers might have taken objection to it.

The complaint is that smuggling goes on there under the cover of night. Probably the Travancore Excise Patrol Officers have been specially posted there to see no smuggling takes place. Sometimes these smugglers are caught. That is the complaint.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Are there not such complaints from Mulanthuruthi touching the Travancore border?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon: I enquired into this case only. I was even prepared to forego the revenue from fishing, Rs. 52. When I told them this, they said 'we have no complaint'.

Mr. K. Kochukunjan Kaimal: What is the practice followed by Government in case the complaints are genuine?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon: We enquire into them and if there is any genuine complaint we represent to the proper authorities.

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Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar: In the answer, it is said that the 'complaint is highly exaggerated'. That is only a vague answer.

Mr. President: The position has been sufficiently explained by hon'ble members for Government. This sort of cross-examination regarding the language I cannot allow.

LEVEL OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS—INCONVENIENCES FELT BY THE PUBLIC.

53. Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the great inconvenience felt by the public, because the level of the Railway compartments is much higher than the level of the Railway platforms?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: There had been some inconvenience on this account. But this has been remedied by providing a third step and an additional hand rail to the carriages running on this railway.

RAILWAY BUDGET—PREPARATION OF.

54. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Cochin Government have any hand in the preparation of the Railway Budget; will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the last Railway Budget so far as it relates to our State Railway?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No. No separate budget is prepared for the State Railway.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—INCURRING OF.

55. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the South Indian Railway Company is authorised to incur capital expenditure in the State Railway without the permission of our Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu: Is the Railway Budget scrutinised by our Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu: Can't the Government take steps to scrutinise the railway budget as prepared by the S. I. R., so far as our railway is concerned?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: There is no separate budget as far as our portion is concerned.

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